

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Applicants submitted a certified copy of the priority document on July 15, 2004, as shown in the image file wrapper in PAIR. Confirmation of receipt of the priority document is respectfully requested in the next Office Action.

Claims 1-22 are pending. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 6, 8, 11-13, 15, 17, 18, 20 and 21 are directed to allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 12, and Claims 14 and 16 as well as new Claim 22 have been amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 15. Claims 12 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Minor amendments for clarification have also been made to Claims 1, 14 and 16 without affecting allowability. The title has been amended as requested.

In the Office Action, Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Ayaki, and Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 10, 14 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Ayaki in combination with Magro.

Without acceding to the rejections, Claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitations of allowable Claim 12, with minor amendment made for clarification not affecting allowability. For example, Claim 1 now recites, *inter alia*, that the control circuit saves preread data management tables

to a preread data management table save area of the nonvolatile memory in a predetermined timing. As acknowledged at page 13 of the Office Action with respect to Claim 12, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest this feature.

Furthermore, Claims 14 and 16 have been amended to recite the limitations of allowable Claim 15, with minor amendments made for clarification not affecting allowability. For example, Claims 14 and 16 now recite, *inter alia*, that the control circuit reads a preread data management table from the nonvolatile memory in response to power on, and reads preread data from a location of the nonvolatile memory indicated by the preread data management table to the buffer memory. New Claim 22 also includes these features. As acknowledged at page 13 of the Office Action with respect to Claim 15, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest these features.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and the case passed to issuance forthwith.

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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